



Victoria Government Gazette

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Environment Protection Act 1970

WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY (RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES)

Certification of Special Reasons as a Result of Which a Waste Management Policy Should be Declared Without Delay

I, Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, certify under section 18B of the **Environment Protection Act 1970** that the Waste Management Policy (Resource Recovery Facilities) ('the Policy') should be declared without delay.

This Policy is necessary to ensure that resource recovery facilities are managed in a manner that minimises risks of fire that can lead to risks to human health and environment.

The Victorian fire services, the Country Fire Authority and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, are Victoria's primary regulators in managing fire risk. This policy enables the Environment Protection Authority ('EPA'), as regulator of the environment and human health risks arising from waste and pollution, to support the Victorian fire services by providing EPA an explicit power to regulate storage of combustible recyclable and waste material at resource recovery facilities that pose fire risks.

Some storage of combustible recyclable and waste material is an ordinary and legitimate activity in waste and resource recovery facilities – for example as a transit stage before the next step in the resource recovery chain, such as reuse or recycling. However, combustible recyclable and waste material is commonly collected and stored in large quantities awaiting processing or for market prices to increase. This can create an environmental hazard.

The key risk associated with improper storage of combustible recyclable and waste material is fire resulting from accidents, arson or bushfires. Stockpiles of combustible recyclable and waste material can burn for days, generating hazardous smoke, oil, runoff and leachate that affect the soil, waterways and air. Research indicates that combustible recyclable and waste material is not always managed appropriately to minimise these risks and impacts. The adverse consequences of poor management have been confirmed by a number of recent fires at resource recovery facilities in Victoria.

As such, special reasons exist which require the Policy to be declared without delay.

Dated 22 August 2017

THE HON. LILY D'AMBROSIO
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Environment Protection Act 1970

WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY (RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES)

Order in Council

The Governor in Council under section 16A of the **Environment Protection Act 1970** and on the recommendation of the Environment Protection Authority, declares the Waste Management Policy (Resource Recovery Facilities) as follows:

1. Objective

The objectives of this Policy are to ensure that combustible recyclable and waste material is –

- (a) managed and stored in a manner that minimises risks of fire that can lead to risks to human health and environment; and
- (b) stored for the purpose of transfer, sale, sorting, reuse, recycling, reprocessing or energy recovery.

SPECIAL

2. Commencement

This Policy will come into operation on the day it is published in the Government Gazette.

3. Definitions

In this Policy –

combustible recyclable and waste material means any paper, cardboard, wood, plastic, rubber, textile, organic material, refuse derived fuel, specified electronic waste, metals, or other combustible material which is considered waste;

licensed waste tyre storage site means premises of a type numbered A09 (waste tyre storage) in Column 1 of the Table in Schedule 1 to the Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises) Regulations 2017, the occupier of which holds a current licence issued by the Environment Protection Authority under section 20 of the **Environment Protection Act 1970**;

specified electronic waste has the same meaning as in the Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises) Regulations 2017;

waste and resource recovery facilities means a facility that receives waste including but not limited to combustible recyclable and waste material for the purposes of storage, transfer, sale, sorting, reuse, recycling, reprocessing or energy recovery;

waste has the same meaning as in the **Environment Protection Act 1970**.

4. Policy clauses

- (1) This Policy applies to occupiers of premises that are waste and resource recovery facilities managing or storing combustible recyclable and waste material.
- (2) Combustible recyclable and waste material must only be stored for transfer, sale, sorting, reuse, recycling, reprocessing or energy recovery.
- (3) This Policy does not apply to licensed waste tyre storage sites.
- (4) Combustible recyclable and waste material must be managed and stored in a manner that minimises risks to human health and environment from fire.
- (5) Combustible recyclable and waste material will be taken to be managed and stored in compliance with clause 4(4) if the guideline *Management and Storage of Combustible Recyclable and Waste Materials* is complied with, or risks are otherwise mitigated to an equivalent level through other means.
- (6) The storage of combustible recyclable and waste material must be in accordance with all state and local laws, including without limitation local planning laws, and building regulations.

5. Expiry

This Policy expires 12 months from the day it is declared.

Dated 29 August 2017

Responsible Minister:

LILY D'AMBROSIO

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

ANDREW ROBINSON
Clerk of the Executive Council

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